



Date: April 9, 2026

DMS Operations Memo 26-12

To: Income Maintenance Supervisors
Income Maintenance Lead Workers
Income Maintenance Staff
FSET Agencies

Affected Programs:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> BadgerCare Plus | <input type="checkbox"/> Caretaker Supplement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FoodShare | <input type="checkbox"/> FoodShare Employment and Training |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medicaid | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SeniorCare | |

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Increase to Supplemental Security Income (SSI) State Supplementary Payments

CROSS-REFERENCE

- [SSI in Wisconsin, P-23043](#)
- [SSI Administration Handbook, P-23129](#)
- [Supplemental Security Income Exceptional Expense \(SSI-E\) Handbook, P-20679](#)

EFFECTIVE DATE

May 1, 2026

PURPOSE

This memo announces a 10% increase to SSI state supplementary payments.

BACKGROUND

The Social Security Administration (SSA) administers SSI at the federal level. SSA makes the rules for the SSI program based on federal laws and uses those rules to make decisions about who can enroll in the program and what the benefit amount is. If someone gets a federal SSI payment, they also get a state-funded supplementary SSI payment and are enrolled in SSI Medicaid.

Certain SSI recipients may qualify for an additional state benefit if a county agency certifies them as eligible because they are:

- Living in substitute care with monthly expenses greater than or equal to the SSI-E payment level; or
- Living at home and needing at least 40 hours per month of primary long-term support services.

This additional benefit is called the Supplemental Security Income Exceptional Expense (SSI-E), and it is added to their state supplement.

A small group of people who do not get a federal SSI payment were grandfathered into getting state-only SSI payments because they were eligible for the state payment as of December 1995. These grandfathered individuals only receive a portion of the state payment (based on the amount they were getting in December 1995) and are also enrolled in SSI Medicaid.

Unlike federal SSI payments, state supplementary payments are not subject to annual cost-of-living adjustments (COLA), and Wisconsin’s state supplementary payments had previously been unchanged since 1994.

POLICY

Effective May 1, 2026, SSI state supplementary payments and SSI-E payments are increasing by 10%. Everyone who qualifies for federal SSI payments of any amount automatically gets the maximum state payment. Grandfathered state-only SSI recipients, who only get a portion of the state payment, will receive a 10% increase to their current benefit amount. Both federal SSI recipients and grandfathered state-only SSI recipients will get the increase beginning with the May 2026 benefit month.

The table below shows the old and new state supplementary payment amounts for SSI recipients in different living arrangements.

State SSI Supplement	Old State SSI Amount	New State SSI Amount
Independent Living		
Eligible individual	\$83.78	\$92.16
Eligible couple	\$132.05	\$145.26
Couple/one spouse eligible	\$130.43	\$143.47
Living in the Household of Another		
Eligible individual	\$83.78	\$92.16
Eligible couple	\$132.05	\$145.26
Couple/one spouse eligible	\$135.05	\$148.56
SSI-E Exceptional Expense Supplement	Old SSI-E Amount	New SSI-E Amount
Eligible individual	\$95.99	\$105.59
Eligible couple	\$345.36	\$379.90

Note: SSI is counted as income for some public benefit programs (such as FoodShare and the Wisconsin Shares childcare subsidy), so the SSI payment increase could affect an SSI recipient’s benefit amounts for those programs.

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CONTACTS

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